



The Probation Journal

Spring 2006, Volume 3, Issue 3
A Massachusetts Probation Service
Publication

News Flash:

MASSCOURTS, new computerized identity system,
is launched! See Page 4

One Year Anniversary For Probation's GPS System In May

Deputy Commissioner
Paul Lucci
demonstrates
GPS equipment.



The Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) Technology Program, now in its 11th month, is currently tracking 88 convicted sex offenders and is available through all of the 14 divisions of the Superior Court Probation Departments. More than 125 offenders have been tethered to the system since it was first launched last spring.

Probation's GPS System is a 24-hour, seven day a week monitoring program which operates via satellite.

With the addition of the GPS System, the Massachusetts Probation Service's Electronic Monitoring Program is one of the most comprehensive of its kind in the country. The Massachusetts Probation Service is the sole monitoring agency for GPS in the state for probationers and parolees.

The Monitoring Program also includes the Radio Frequency initiative, the first electronic bracelet system introduced by the Massachusetts Probation Service. There are currently 590 offenders hooked up to the Radio Frequency Program for a combined total of 678 offenders.

"The GPS System is an extra layer of supervision. It's going to be a great tool," said Deputy Commissioner Paul Lucci.

Offenders have been outfitted with an ankle bracelet which transmits a signal to a cell phone and GPS tracker on a belt. The GPS System is linked with the U.S. Defense Department satellites which are orbiting 12,000 miles above the earth. The devices send information on the offenders' whereabouts to Probation's Electronic Monitoring Center. Probation employees at the center monitor the movements of sex offenders.

If the offender leaves the area to where he or she has been restrained to, an alert will go off. A probation employee will then contact the offender on a specialized GPS cell phone to find out why the offender left the designated area and instructs them to leave the undesignated area.

If the Probation employee receives no response when they call the offender or if the offender does not provide an adequate explanation regarding their whereabouts, the Probation employee will contact a Probation Officer who will take the appropriate action, which may include seeking a warrant.

Eighty Percent of Offenders Suffer with Addiction

More than **80 percent** of the **54,942** people on Risk/Need probation in Massachusetts suffer with addiction.

Risk/Need supervision is based on an offender's risk to the community as well as their individual needs. There were a total of 244,995 adults and juveniles under various types of supervision by the Massachusetts Probation Service in Fiscal Year 2005.

Throughout the state, there are drug and alcohol prevention programs and initiatives which were designed by probation officers who have witnessed first-hand the ravages of substance abuse among offenders.

As part of the Massachusetts Probation Service's counseling and prevention programs, Probation Officers work with offenders every day of every month of the year to help stop the cycle of addiction.

The **Somerville District Court** Probation Department operates the Somerville District Court Substance Abuse Program, one of the most comprehensive programs of its kind in Middlesex County. The program offers evening and day meetings Monday through Thursday in Medford, Malden, Chelsea and Somerville. There are programs for non-English speaking participants as well as those specifically created for mothers who are battling addiction.

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Probation Employee Recognition Ceremony

Thursday, May 11, 2006
Massachusetts State House



Do you know a Probation Employee who:

- **Routinely goes beyond the call of duty.**
- **Makes a positive impact in the court and the community.**
- **Performs their duties in an exemplary manner.**
- **Presents creative ideas.**
- **Represents the best of our organization.**

Tell us all about this person

Submit a one-page summary on this outstanding employee and include detailed information on why this person should be honored.

First Assistant Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, Probation Officers, Associate Probation Officers, and Support Staff are eligible for consideration of recognition.

Submissions may be **faxed** to **617-727-0316** or sent via **email** to **holland_c@jud.state.ma.us**

Submission deadline: Friday, April 7, 2006.

**Questions may be directed to: Coria A. Holland, Director of Communications
617-727-5300, x258**

Letter from the Commissioner



Dear Colleagues of the Massachusetts Probation Service and Office of Community Corrections:

As we enter the new year, we are hopeful to continue in addressing the staffing shortages in many of our probation departments throughout the various departments within the Trial Court, both in the ranks of probation officer and our support staff personnel. I'd like to thank those of you who participated in the hiring process for your time and your contributions to the selection process. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all of you for your patience as we continue to remedy the existing needs of your offices.

In 2005, we saw the ratification of the contract between the Trial Court and Nage 5000. Although it has been a challenging time for our organization, we are encouraged that we are able to proceed with the good probation work and that our organization continues to serve the communities we work and live in.

The Mass Courts project has introduced a new technological approach to accessing important court information. The project is an electronic case management system which is state-of-the-art and among the first of its kind nationwide. This system will promote inter-agency information sharing and collaboration. To learn more about this impressive technology, read Craig Burlingame's article, "**MASSCOURTS Is Here**," on page four.

The Massachusetts Probation Service has also introduced new technology, the Global Positioning Satellite System or GPS System. Probation introduced this system as a means to enhance supervision for convicted sex offenders. There are currently 88 sex offenders on this tracking system and we are looking forward to expanding its use. For more information and updates concerning GPS, please refer to page one of this issue.

Thank you for your commitment to our courts and the Massachusetts Probation Service.

Sincerely,

John J. O'Brien,
Commissioner of Probation

COMMISSIONER JOHN J. O'BRIEN

DEPUTIES

John F. Cremens, Jr.
First Deputy

Elizabeth V. Tavares, Esq.
Second Deputy
Field Services Division

Anthony C. Sicuso,
Legal Counsel

Stephen T. Bocko,
Research and Training
Field Services Division

William H. Burke III,
Western Region
Field Services Division

Paul Lucci,
Field Services - Programs and
EMP Program

Francis M. Wall,
Liaison to the Office of Community
Corrections - Field Services

Patricia A. Walsh,
Deputy Commissioner
Interstate

Mission Statement

The Massachusetts Probation Service is at the center in the delivery of justice through investigations, community supervision of offenders/litigants, diversion of appropriate offenders from institutional sentences, reduction in crime, mediations, service to victims, and the performance of other appropriate community service functions.

MASSCOURTS IS HERE

By Craig Burlingame,
Chief Information Officer of the Massachusetts Trial Court

Following more than eight months of successful MassCourts operation in the Land Court, the first elements of MassCourts are headed for the Boston Municipal Court, the District Court and the Probation Department. One of those elements is called MassCourts Lite and will be installed in all Divisions of the Boston Municipal and District Courts except for those that now manage criminal cases with BasCOT, JMS or CourtView. MassCourts Lite combines information stored in the Court Activity Record Information system (CARI) with information stored in the Warrant Management System (WMS) and allows authorized employees in the different departments to share that information.

Installation of MassCourts Lite began in the Ayer District Court and will continue throughout the Commonwealth until the installation process is completed in late Spring of next year. During the course of the installation, about 850 Trial Court employees in the District Court, Boston Municipal Court and Probation departments will be trained to use the system's various features. MassCourts Lite is actually a piece of the overall MassCourts case management system. MassCourts Lite training, therefore, is good preparation for the full MassCourts system, although employees who do not receive training in the Lite version will receive the training they need before the full version is installed.

There are several principal reasons for installing MassCourts Lite in advance of the full MassCourts system. First of all, installation of Lite in many of the Commonwealth's busiest courts will allow employees to become familiar with the basic components of case initiation and warrant management without having to learn at the same time all of the steps and procedures necessary to operate the full system. Second, installation of Lite will provide employees of the three affected Trial Court Departments with sufficient time to reconcile information in the WMS and CARI databases so that those databases can be combined. Finally, installation of Lite will allow all employees to familiarize themselves with the new method for managing the identities of defendants in criminal cases that the MassCourts system will utilize.

The new MassCourts identity management system will be a substantial improvement over the existing systems. As each new case is created in MassCourts Lite and in MassCourts full, a careful effort will be made to determine whether the defendant in that case is appearing in the Massachusetts court system for the first time or whether the defendant has had prior appearances. If the defendant is appearing for the first time, the defendant's identity information will be entered in the MassCourts system where it will be available to all MassCourts users in all Departments and Divisions. If the defendant has appeared before, then identity information entered in the system in connection with the defendant's prior appearance updated and corrected as necessary, will be reused for the new criminal case. To the extent possible, criminal defendants' identity information will be fingerprint supported.

The new identity management system will begin a process that ultimately will provide an automated, unified and comprehensive record of all criminal cases in which an individual has appeared as a defendant in a Massachusetts court. Proper operation of the system will require cooperation between employees of the clerk magistrate's office and the probation department with the assistance of an "identity specialist" who will be present at every court location. Guidelines for the operation of the new identity system have been developed by departmental administrative office personnel, employees of the probation department and employees of the clerk magistrate's offices throughout the Commonwealth.



Judge James McHugh addresses Probation Chiefs at conference as Craig Burlingame looks on.

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News You Can Use:

A **Tech Tip** from **Norfolk County Assistant Chief Probation Officer Paul Keefe**: "Google.com is now providing maps and driving directions. I think they are better than MapQuest and MapBlast. Check out maps.google.com"

Do you have a tip or information that will assist Probation personnel with their duties? If so, please forward this information to:

holland_c@jud.state.ma.us

KUDOS COLUMN

Kudos to **Bristol County Probate & Family Court Chief Probation Officer James Casey** who is the recipient of the Brotherhood Award bestowed upon him by the New Bedford Chapter of the Prince Henry Society of Massachusetts. Casey, who took in a family of nine New Orleans evacuees this fall, accepted the award at the Century House in Acushnet on February 7th.

Congratulations to eight **Boston Municipal Court—Dorchester Division Probation Officers and Assistant Chief Probation Officer**, who were acknowledged for their behind-the-scenes efforts to quell gun violence on the streets of Boston. Boston Police Department Commissioner Kathleen O'Toole presented the honorees with plaques at the ceremony held at Boston Police Department headquarters.

Congrats to **Norfolk Probate and Family Court Probation Officer Dee Crawford** who performed in the starring role of Kal in a local production of "To Kill A Mocking Bird."

Congratulations are in order for Barnstable District Court Probation Officer **Alan Burt** and Barnstable Juvenile Court P.O. **Sean Sheehan** who were recognized by the Cape Cod Chapter of the American Red Cross at its 3rd Annual Heroes Breakfast.

Burt, who received the Community Service Award, was recognized for his work with homeless people. Sheehan was honored with the Red Cross' Community Impact Award for his work with area youths and their families.

Berkshire Juvenile Probation Officer Alexander L. Daugherty was honored by the Salvation Army at its Community Service Awards Ceremony for his work with young people.

Woburn District Court Chief Probation Officer Charles A. Winchester recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Middlesex County Bar Association at the group's 105th Annual Banquet. The event took place on November 10th in the Grand Ballroom of the Burlington Marriott Hotel.

Hats off to **New Bedford District Court Probation Officer David Branco** on the fifth anniversary of your cable program, "Operation Spotlight." Operation Spotlight is a televised most wanted list of absconded probationers that airs on cable station, Comcast's "News 9" program in New Bedford.

Kudos to **Suffolk County Juvenile Court Probation Officers Andrea Concannon and Elizabeth Davis** who alerted (MBTA) Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Police when they discovered a store selling the controversial "Stop Snitching" T-Shirts. The shirts are considered to be a tool in witness intimidation in Boston where gang-related murders are at a ten-year high.



Chiefs' Celebrate 30 Years of Honored Service

Chief Probation Officers, who have been employed for 30 years or more, were recently honored at the Chief Probation Officer Conference at the Southbridge Conference Center.

The honorees included: **Stephen G. Alpers**, 31 years, Milford District; **Richard A. Anderson**, 35 yrs., Waltham District; **Charles A. Ashe**, 38 yrs., Framingham District; **Gerald W. Buono, Jr.**, 33 yrs., East Brookfield District; **James A. Casey**, 33 yrs., Bristol Probate & Family; **John D. Chapman**, 37 yrs., Orleans District; **James R. Colgan**, 31 yrs., Greenfield District; **John J. Connelly**, 44 yrs., Norfolk Probate & Family; **George W. Corkery**, 33 yrs., Lawrence District; **Thomas J. Costello**, 35 yrs., Hingham District; **Gary F. Cowles**, 32 yrs., Peabody District; **Angelo A. Dinardo**, 33 yrs., Cambridge District; **Michael P. Distefano**, 33 yrs., Uxbridge District;

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Inside Probation

Nilza Delgado, **Dudley District Court** Chief Probation Officer, has been featured on a billboard in an advertisement in the Westfield State College Alumni Magazine and on a billboard. The billboards, right, could be seen on Massachusetts Turnpike in Worcester and on Route 290 near Agawam.

Mark Polaski, a Probation Case Specialist at the **Worcester County Probate & Family Court**, has begun training at the Ski Ward in Shrewsbury for the 2006 Special Olympics where he plans to compete in Glide Ski division. Polaski recently tried out his first pair of new skis at Wachusett Mountain Ski Resort.

Probation employees and their charges from the **Suffolk County Juvenile Resource Center**, one of two juvenile community corrections centers in the state, joined together on the basketball court for what officials hope to be an annual basketball game. Nearly 20 juvenile probationers, ages 12 to 17, played against Probation employees in the South Boston High School gymnasium. "We decided to have this game to show the probationers another side of probation," said Terry Ryan, Program Manager.

Probation employees brought joy to needy families over the holidays. For the fifth year in a row, **Bristol County Superior Court** employees raised money and contributed grocery and store gift certificates to a family in need. Probation employees from **Milford District, Greenfield District, Bristol County Probate & Family, and Northampton District Courts** made the holidays brighter for families in need.

"I counsel your community."

Ms. Nilza I. Delgado
Class of 1991 - Chief Probation Officer, Dudley District Court

Westfield State College

P.O. Profile: Logan Ritchie



BMC-West Roxbury Court Probation Officer Logan Ritchie (left) talks to Boston Police Officer James Nelson, an Area E18 Community Officer at Forest Hill Station where Logan checks on probationers as part of Operation StopWatch.

At six-foot, three inches tall, Probation Officer Logan Ritchie towers over the scores of young people that appear to swirl around him at Forest Hills Station one afternoon after school let out.

Ritchie, a five-year Probation Officer in the West Roxbury division of the Boston Municipal Court, is at the train station to help identify court-involved young people passing through the station. This planned observation is part of an initiative -- a collaborative effort involving the MBTA Police, Probation and Boston Police -- called Operation Stopwatch.

Instead of rushing away from Ritchie, three young people walk up to him and chat amiably about school and assure him that they are staying out of trouble. There is a familiarity between Ritchie and the young people which is absent of the friction that usually occurs between young people and law enforcement. Ritchie knows this generation of young people. He knows their parents and relatives. Ritchie is from the neighborhood.

Ritchie, 39, grew up in the Lenox Street Housing Projects in the South End. When he gazes in the young faces congregating around him, he sees himself and his friends from the old neighborhood. Ritchie, like the young adults he supervises, has witnessed the lives of his friends cut short by violence.

"I have seen and heard it all. And, when I see them (young people), I have an immediate connection. Instead of talking down to them, I listen first," Ritchie said.

A father of two young children, Ritchie is frequently invited to speak at local schools to encourage students to stay out of trouble. He explains how probation works and how to avoid becoming court-involved. Ritchie is a regular at the John McCormack School's Career Visions Day. He was a guest speaker at a job training program for inner-city youth sponsored by the City of Boston's Private Industry Council.

Ritchie always knew that he wanted to work in the community. He earned an undergraduate degree in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts -- Boston in 1993. At first, he wanted to become a police officer but switched career gears and entered the field of corrections. Ritchie worked as a pre-release counselor for federal inmates and later was employed with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He then became a substance abuse counselor after seeing drugs ravage the lives of some people in his community.

After several years in the field, Ritchie set his sights on becoming a Probation Officer. He felt that he could help people suffering with addiction with the rehabilitative tools offered through Probation programming while also utilizing the court to hold offenders accountable for their actions.

"I wanted to make a difference in my community, not by what I say, but by what I do," he said.

Substance Abuse Programs Continued from Page 1

Boston Municipal Court—Charlestown Probation Department Probation Officers run a support group for the "Significant Others of Substance Abusers." The Substance Abuse Education Program, developed by Chief Probation Officer Barbara Burke, is an advocacy program which teaches those close to an addict "tough love measures, how not to enable, and how to advocate," Burke said. "Above all, we teach them (participants) how to cope on a daily level," she said. The program was first established in 2003 and has an open enrollment policy.

New Bedford District Court Probation's Recovery and Relapse Group, created by Probation Officer Dorothy Clark, fills a void for those who are uninsured and are unable to continue treatment for substance abuse. Clark's group is open to addicts and their loved ones. Participants explore such issues as relapse behaviors as well as the psychological and personal ramifications of addiction such as having children removed from the home. The six-week program has graduated 80 participants since it was established in 2004.

BMC-South Boston Probation offers relapse groups for males and females that feature the use of acupuncture, which is said to relieve cravings and assists with withdrawal from substance abuse, according to Assistant Chief Probation Officer Jack Leary. Another substance abuse program at South Boston is the TIP Program or Total Immersion Program for addicts who have anger management issues. There are two separate groups for men and women.

South Boston Probation also offers an Alcohol Crisis Intervention Program where up to 70 people will attend this season. The program is 20 years old and has an Alcohol Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous structured meeting, according to Jack Leary, South Boston District Assistant Chief Probation Officer.

At Brockton District Court, Probation Officer Audrey Banks designed a program, the Alcohol Awareness Program, which targets young men, typically high school or college-age youth. Banks created the program in 2002. She noticed a spike in the number of young men in this age group who were coming before the court on charges of minor possession, minor transporting or minor procurement offenses. The participants must attend a presentation offered by representatives from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Alcohol Anonymous Meetings, and a workshop sponsored by the RISE program of the Veterans Administration.

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QUOTABLES



Quote of the Quarter:

"Probation is the arterial flow of the lifeblood of the Trial Court," said Woburn District

Court Chief Probation Officer Charles Winchester.

Springfield District Court Probation Officer Rachel Joyce was featured in the winter issue of her alumni magazine, *The Mount Holyoke Alumnae Quarterly*, of Mount Holyoke College.

The **Massachusetts Probation Service** was spotlighted in a front page Feb. 15th *Boston Globe* article, "Police seek to track violent offenders: Those on probation may have to wear GPS device." The article featured a collaborative between Probation and the City of Boston to track high-risk offenders using GPS.

Essex Juvenile Court Chief Probation Officer Dan Passacantilli commented in a Dec. 23rd *Salem News* article, "Community involvement key to solving gang problem," "We need to get these kids at a very early age," Passacantilli said.

Woburn District Court Chief Probation Officer Charles Winchester, who was honored with a "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Middlesex County Bar Association, was featured in several newspapers, including the Dec. 15th issue of the *Woburn Advocate*, and the Dec. 11th issue of the *Boston Globe*, Northwest Edition.

30 Years

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Bernard L. Fitzgerald, 34 yrs., Dorchester; **James F. Flannery**, 31 yrs., Fall River; **Edward J. Gaffey**, 37 yrs., Concord; **Kevin T. Galligan**, 34 yrs., Newton; **Michael S. Ghazil**, 31 yrs., Hampden Superior; **Thomas J. Ginley, Jr.**, 32 yrs., Hampden Juvenile; **John E. Graham**, 32 yrs., Gloucester District; **Joseph E. Hamilton**, 32 yrs., Bristol Juvenile; **Joseph Hassett Jr.**, 33 yrs., Barnstable Superior; **Donald L. January**, 34 yrs., Lynn District; **H. James Kazeniac**, 33 yrs., Ayer District; **Paul R. Kingston**, 32 yrs., Hampshire Superior; **James J. Lyons**, 33 yrs., Westfield District; **John L. Mansfield**, 32 yrs., Plymouth Superior; **William P. Mattei**, 33 yrs., Worcester District; **John H. Mezzetti**, 31 yrs., Edgartown; **William T. McAndrew**, 35 yrs., Taunton District;

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NEW ARRIVALS/DEATHS

Births

Sean Whalen, a Salem District Court Probation Officer, and his wife, Ann, celebrated the birth of their new baby girl, Katherine Jane, born September 16, 2005.

Lindy Haczela, a Berkshire Superior Court Probation Case Specialist, and her husband, Timothy, are the happy parents of a baby boy, Timothy, born September 8, 2005.

Patricia Shields, an Associate Probation Officer at the West Roxbury Division of the Boston Municipal Court, and her husband, Jackie, celebrated the birth of their first child, Ryan Michael, born August 18, 2005.

Susan Conrad, a Suffolk Juvenile Court Probation Officer, and her husband, Paul, celebrated the birth of their son, Michael Gordon Conrad, born August 15, 2005.

Sondra McMillan-King, a Hampden Probate & Family Court Probation Officer, and her husband, Walter King, are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Victoria Elyse King, born August 15, 2005.

Angelique Slocik, a Pittsfield District Court Probation Officer Manager, and her husband, Charles, rejoiced in the birth of their new baby girl, Samantha, born July 5, 2005.

Julie Lucas, a Lynn District Court Associate Probation Officer, and her husband, Tom, celebrated the birth of their first child, Kyle Lucas, born July 3, 2005.

John Lander, a Pittsfield District Court Probation Officer, and his wife, Jamie, are pleased to share the news of their new baby girl, Rylee, born June 27, 2005.

Ellen Winschel, a Salem District Court Probation Officer, and her husband, Daniel, celebrated the birth of their son, Kevin, born June 28, 2005.

Audrey Carr, a Probation Officer at Attleboro District Court, and her husband, Ryan, are the proud parents of a baby girl, Molly Elizabeth, born May 1, 2005.

Erin Gately, a Cambridge District Court Probation Officer, and her husband, Sean, welcomed a new addition to their family, Jack, born April 24, 2005.

Andrea Casey, a Middlesex County Juvenile Court Associate Probation Officer, and her husband, Peter, celebrated the birth of their first child, Emma Rose, born April 21, 2005.

Cara Madarese, a Fiscal Specialist II at The Office of the Commissioner of Probation, and her husband, John, are happy to announce the birth of their second child, Sophia Elizabeth Madarese, born March 26, 2005.

Francine Hammersley, a Somerville District Court Associate Probation Officer, and her husband, Jerry Hammersley, are happy to announce the birth of their new baby girl, Reagan, born January 4, 2005.

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Substance Abuse Programs

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The young men must also attend a seminar which explores the impact their behavior may have on the lives and safety of others, examine their own history of criminal behavior and its connection to alcohol and other substances. Another workshop encourages participants to look at warning signs and develop a personal plan to help them make better decisions. Upon the successful completion of the program, the individual may have charges dismissed.

Chicopee District Court runs First Choice, a court-referred treatment and recovery program, where the issues such as the addiction recovery process, constructive decision-making, life coping skills and personal accountability for one's choices are part of the curriculum, according to Chief Probation Officer Michael Placzek. More than 300 offenders have graduated from the eight-week program since the program was first established in 1999.

THE PROBATION OFFICER AS A PERSUADER: HOW TO STIMULATE NEW THINKING IN OUR CLIENTS

By **Stephen R. Rocco**,
Norfolk County Probate & Family Court Probation Officer

As a Probate & Family Court Probation Officer for 20 years, I am often asked by my clients (as well as my colleagues in the superior and district courts), “How can you work with the same type of family problems each day?” My “work” entails daily involvement with individuals and families enmeshed in a variety of family law actions: divorce, paternity, adoption, and guardianship of minors among others. Most Probate Probation Officers in the state are formally assigned by their respective courts to assist these families in a special way. Specific dispute intervention and conflict resolution techniques are applied to help these people become part of the legal decision-making process.

What sustains my desire to remain in this position is, I suspect, is what motivates many Probation Officers— I enjoy enhancing a person’s ability to make the wisest decisions for himself. In my area, this might involve persuading a father to drop an acrimonious child custody suit through creative decision making. The change in this father’s thinking will not occur unless some want of his is fulfilled. Ideally, he will respond to the altruistic need not to traumatize his child through contentious litigation.

All successful probation officers are persuaders of clients. The Juvenile Probation Officer might convince a recalcitrant juvenile to return to school. The adult probation officer may persuade by challenging his substance abuser client to confront personal losses associated with the continued addiction. Most Probation Officers develop an intuitive sense as to how to motivate a client. This is not surprising, since most theories of persuasion are grounded on the good common sense possessed by those in our profession. Probate probation officers have a unique ability to study human conflict due to their daily observations of interpersonal disputes. The dynamics of conflict, and more importantly the steps to its resolution afford the Probate Probation Officer special views on human motivation. This article will focus on the role of Probation Officers as persuaders of people. A common family intervention for a Probate Probation Officer may involve a recently separated mother’s desire to limit the father’s visitation with their son. She may believe that their child, in this case, who is age one, is too young to have overnight visits with his dad.

Layered by perhaps months of frustrated communication, blame, and distrust a joint meeting with this couple may soon degenerate into acrimony and impaired decision-making. Lost in these polarized positions is whether, in fact, these visits are in the best interest of the child.

Students of human conflict recognize that there are two forms of reality to this visitation dispute. There is the objective reality, the verifiable facts necessary for the parents to make a wise decision. There is also the parents’ perceptions to this problem, which may or may not be as reality-based. As we know from our own lives, our perceptions are often complicated— rigidly comfortable yet resistant to change, even in the force of persuasive logic. Our perceptions of a problem are often intimately bound to our emotional state, producing a feeling of “rightness” about a position.

There exists a strong resistance to changing these perceptions since to do so is viewed as a loss. The persuader’s “art” is to modify faulty perceptions by having a person grasp for himself that these changed views will result in a positive gain in his life.

MASSCOURTS

Continued from Page 4

For training purposes, the Commonwealth has been divided into a number of geographical regions. Training will require approximately three days and will be carried out at regional centers situated so as to reduce the amount of travel the training process will require. Training of most clerk magistrate and probation department personnel will take place at the same time, although in separate training sessions. The training sessions also have been designed so that only some portion of the employees in each court location will have to take part in any given training session.

Throughout the process of preparing for installation of MassCourts Lite, I and Judge Jim McHugh, an Appeals Court judge who now is acting as a Special Assistant to Chief Justice Mulligan, have been working very closely with Commissioner O’Brien to ensure that both MassCourts Lite and the full version of MassCourts meet the needs of the Probation Department. With the Chief Justice of the Boston Municipal Court, the Chief Justice of the District Court and the Chief Justice of the Juvenile Court, Commissioner O’Brien has been instrumental in promulgating rules for operation of the new identity management process in those three courts. Judge McHugh and I have also worked closely with **John Cremens**, **Liz Tavares**, **Joe Holmes**, **Maribeth Borsari**, **Dick Martin**, **Midge Thompson**, **Ellen Slaney** and **Steve Bocko**, among others, to formulate principles, procedures and training that will help you become familiar with MassCourts Lite and the new MassCourts identity management principles. More information about the training and installation schedule will be forthcoming soon and you can always look at our website, available by clicking the “MassCourts” tab at <http://trialcourtweb.jud.state.ma.us>, for updated MassCourts information.

NEW ARRIVALS/DEATHS

Births

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Whitney Margoupis, a Worcester Juvenile Court Associate Probation Officer, and her husband, Jamie, are happy to announce the birth of their baby boy, Jack Anthony Margoupis, born April 28, 2004.

Joanne Fitzgerald, a Fall River District Court Probation Case Specialist, and her husband, Robert, celebrated the birth of their third child, Morgan Fitzgerald, born on December 18, 2004.

Jennifer Jenkins, a Lynn District Court Probation Officer and her husband, Dan Jenkins, celebrated the birth of their first child, Jake Jenkins, born on December 7, 2004.

Elaine Nathanson Pietila, a Middlesex Probate and Family Court Probation Officer, and her husband, Michael Pietila, celebrated the birth of their son, Matthew Pietila, born on October 6, 2004.

Sean McDonald, a Hampden Juvenile Court Probation Officer, and his wife, Erin, rejoiced the birth of their first child, Brady McDonald, born August 7, 2004.

Kerry Baker, a Lynn District Court Probation Operations Supervisor, and her husband, Shawn, announced the birth of their first child, Meghan Baker, born on November 30, 2004.

Deaths

Joseph M. Souza, former Chief Probation Officer at the New Bedford District Court, died on Monday, November 14, 2005, at St. Luke's Hospital. Mr. Souza retired as the Chief Probation Officer in July 1986. He was a member and past president of the Massachusetts Probation Officers Association and the Massachusetts Chief Probation Officers Association. Survivors include his wife, Rose F. (DeSouza) Souza; two daughters, Elizabeth H. and her husband, William Stapleton, of Amherst and Pamela M. Souza and her companion, Ronald Teachman, of New Bedford; a sister, Ann Pielech of New Bedford, and five grandchildren.

Mary Catino, a retired employee at the Dudley District Court Probation Department, died on October 13, 2005 in the St. Vincent Hospital at the Worcester Medical Center. She was the wife of the late Victor Catino. She leaves four daughters: Linda Saad of Sutton, Joan Christenson, Patricia Plasse, and Barbara Lenky all of Webster; three sons: Victor Catino of Bridgewater, Paul Catino of Webster and Richard Catino of Hudson; a sister, Gertrude Wonoski of Dudley; 18 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a son, David Catino.

Pearlis Jones, a retired First Assistant Chief Probation Officer at the Dorchester Division of the Boston Municipal Court Department, died on September 12, 2005 in Georgia. Wife of the late Herbert Alleyne, Ms. Jones is survived by a daughter; Alleyson of Atlanta, Georgia. Three sisters and their husbands: Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Williams (Agnes), Greenville, Georgia; Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Hill (Vivian), Senoia, Georgia; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hawkins (Emma Jean), Grantville, Georgia; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Mary C. Sambito, a former employee at the Ayer District Court Probation Department, died on September 2, 2005 at the Nashoba Valley Medical Center. She was the wife of the late William B. Sambito. Mrs. Sambito is survived by a son William Sambito who resides in Lake Havasu, Arizona with his wife, Kimberly Sambito; two daughters Lois and Michael Donnelly of Venice, Florida, and Donna and Ronald Albert of Haverhill. She also leaves eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Robert C. O'Shea, a retired Regional Supervisor for Superior Court Probation Services died on July 31, 2005. Beloved husband of Elizabeth (O'Connor) O'Shea; loving father of Kevin F. O'Shea of Quincy and Christopher A. O'Shea and his wife, Mary, of West Roxbury. Cherished Papa of his five grandchildren: Kevin Francis, Elizabeth, Lauren, Austin and Connor. Devoted brother of Arthur J. O'Shea and his wife, Janet, of Needham

Sally S. Marin, a former employee at the Quincy District Court Juvenile Probation Department died on July 19, 2005, at Cape Heritage Nursing and Rehabilitation Center of Sandwich. She is survived by a sister, Elsie R. Hayden of Hyannis; several nieces and nephews; and several grand-nieces and grandnephews.

Ann L. Fuller, a retired Assistant Chief Probation Officer at Boston Municipal Court, died on July 15, 2005, at her home. Surviving her are two sisters, Adele Demers of Front Royal, VA; and Marilyn Brown of Townsend; nieces, nephews and several grand-nieces and nephews.

T. William Lewis, a retired Chief Probation Officer at Northern Berkshire District Court died on July 10, 2005, at North Adams Regional Hospital. He was the longest-serving probation officer in the history of the state. He leaves his wife Mamie (Farinon) Lewis; a son, Thomas William Lewis of Longmeadow; a daughter, Mary Lewis D'Arcangelo of Clarksburg; a sister, Alyce Noble of Williamstown, and four grandchildren.

Janet Morgan, a Norfolk Juvenile Court Probation Officer died on April 28, 2005 at the Stanley Tippet House in Needham. She is survived by her two sons, Douglas and Zachary, both of Needham, her parents, Thomas S. and Norma A. (Kadra) Maher of West Roxbury; and a brother, Tommy Maher of Revere.

Norma M. Silva, a retired Administrative Assistant at the New Bedford District Court Probation Department for 30 years died on April 27, 2005 at The Oaks. She is survived by a daughter, Roberta K. Harrison of New Bedford; a son, Mark S. Silva of Fernandina Beach, Florida; a son-in-law, John Harrison III of New Bedford; a sister Roberta Janet Soares of LaMesa, California; two grandchildren; and two nephews.

Deaths

Continued from Page 8

Richard J. Skinner, a Hingham District Court Probation Officer for 25 years, died on April 27, 2005 at South Shore Hospital in Weymouth. Mr Skinner is survived by his wife, Helena (Bernardino); his former wife, Joanne Murray; three sons: William (B.J.) And Gregg P., both of Weymouth, and Richard M. of Braintree; three daughters: Olivia A. of Weymouth, and Laurie B. and Lisa Jayne, both of Braintree; two sisters, Elizabeth Le-Clair of Dorchester and Anne Marie Bianco of Abington; six brothers: Robert and Walter, both of Dorchester; William of Pocasset, Thomas of Easton; Daniel of Weymouth and Michael of Natick; a granddaughter; and many nieces and nephews.

Charles F. Hoar, a retired Boston Municipal Court, Dorchester Division Chief Probation Officer, died on March 15, 2005 at the Life Care Center in Scituate. Husband of the late Helen (Duffy). Mr. Hoar is survived by two sons, Charles F. Jr. of Scituate, and Robert "Chip" of Lowell; a daughter, Joan H. Brohlin of Naples, Florida; nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

David Fiske Scott, a retired Quincy District Court Assistant Chief Probation Officer died on March 13, 2005 at his son's South Yarmouth home. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Mary Ellen (Fern); his daughter, Deborah Comstock of Braintree; three sons, David Adam of South Yarmouth, John of Bridgewater and Clifton of Yardley, Pennsylvania; and three grandchildren.

Retirements

John Hennessey, a Salem District Court Assistant Chief Probation Officer, retired on October 14, 2005 after 36 years of service. A celebration party was given on Friday, November 18, 2005 at The Polish American Club in Danvers.

Ann Hennessey, a Plymouth Probate & Family Court Probation Officer, retired on September 30, 2005 after 31 years of service. A surprise luncheon was given in her honor at the courthouse on September 28, 2005 by her co-workers.

Robert Christensen, a Norfolk Probate & Family Court Probation Officer, retired on September 30, 2005 after 25 years of service.

Donald Chabot, a Chief Probation Officer at Franklin Probate & Family Court, retired on September 30, 2005 after 26 years of service.

Patricia A. Thomas, a Probation Officer II at Middlesex Probate and Family Court, retired on July 29, 2005 after 25 years of service.

Timothy Hallahan, a First Assistant Chief Probation Officer at Springfield District Court retired on June 30, 2005 after 38 years of service. A surprise party was given by his co-workers on July 14, 2005 at the John Boyle O'Reilly Club in Springfield.

Hollie Moultrie, a Probation Officer II at Milford District Court, retired on June 30, 2005 after 21 years of service. A luncheon was given at the courthouse on June 24, 2005 by his co-workers.

Mary Prior, a Chief Probation Officer at Suffolk Probate and Family Court, retired on June 30, 2005 after 28 years of service.

Gerald Murray, an Assistant Chief Probation Officer at Norfolk Probate and Family Court, retired on June 30, 2005 after 31 years of service. A party is being planned for September.

Philip P. Palmieri, a Probation Officer at Worcester Juvenile Court, retired on June 21, 2005 after 33 years of service. A celebration was given in his honor on June 24, 2005 at the Clinton Training Academy by his co-workers.

Joan Rockett, a Norfolk Superior Court Probation Officer retired on May 23, 2005 after 32 years of service. A party was given in her honor on June 16, 2005 at the American Legion Post #18 in Dedham.

Joseph Cody, a POIC at the Quincy Community Correction Center retired on May 23, 2005 after 35 years of service. A party was given in his honor on June 16, 2005 at the American Legion Post #18 in Dedham.

Kathleen Nelligan, Essex Probate and Family Court Probation Officer retired on May 13, 2005, after 28 years of service. A party was given in her honor by her colleagues on April 28, 2005 at the Grand Ballroom of the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem.

Susan E. Kenyon, Barnstable Juvenile Court Chief Probation Officer, retired on April 22, 2005 after 10 years of service. A dinner was given on March 29, 2005 at the Yarmouth House in Yarmouth by her co-workers.

Juan Palmerola, Framingham District Court Probation Officer, retired on March 18, 2005, after 27 years of service. A party was given in his honor at the courthouse by his co-workers.

Deborah Haddad-Holmes, Pittsfield District Court Probation Officer retired on February 1, 2005 after 22 years of service.

Judith Collins, Salem District Court Chief Probation Officer, retired on January 31, 2005 after 36 years of service. A reception was given in her honor at the court on January 28, 2005.

Daniel Harrington, Woburn District Court Probation Officer, retired on January 21, 2005 after 32 years of service. A holiday party was given to honor him at the Woburn Country Club on December 3, 2004.

James Umile, Woburn District Court Assistant Chief Probation Officer, retired on December 31, 2004 after 30 years of service. A holiday party was given to honor him at the Woburn Country Club on December 3, 2004.

Beverly Gibson-Soares, Woburn District Court Probation Officer, retired on December 31, 2004 after 22 years of service. A holiday party was given to honor her at the Woburn Country Club on December 31, 2004.

Marcia Bellermann, Fitchburg District Court Probation Officer retired on December 31, 2004 after 29 years of service. A party was given in her honor on March 5, 2005 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fitchburg at 6 p.m.

Community Corrections Corner

The Office of Community Corrections hosted a one-day training session for Boston Municipal Court (BMC) judges which explained "The Ins and Outs of Community Corrections." More than 10 judges and representatives from the District Attorney's Office and the Massachusetts Probation Service turned out for the training held at the John Adams Courthouse this winter.

The Massachusetts Trial Court Community Service Program broke its record in 2005 for the number of community service hours performed by probationers and parolees. A total of **330,757** hours of community service were performed by 15,093 offenders last year. In 2004, **292,373** community service hours were performed by offenders. Probationers and parolees worked a total of **271,959** community service hours in 2003.

A Norfolk County Community Service Crew sorted and wrapped 1,800 gifts for residents of the Wrentham Developmental Center, formerly Wrentham State Hospital.

The Trial Court Community Service Program has had a long working relationship with the hospital where offenders have logged in a total of **15,377** hours of service over the past five years. Shoveling snow, landscaping, picking up trash, cleaning buildings and painting are among the projects they have completed.

Community Service crews assisted in the creation of a women's wing for female veterans at the Old Soldiers Home in Chelsea. The 8 to 10-bed facility is scheduled to open in late spring, according to P. Scott Glucker, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer at the home.



Judge Patricia Bernstein and Associate Justice Mark Hart Summerville both of the BMC, and Stephen V. Price, Executive Director of the Office of Community Corrections listen intently to a presentation by OCC Regional Manager Pamerson Ifill.



A Community Service crew of UMASS-Amherst students pick up trash along Route 9 in Amherst.

30 Years of Service

Continued from Page 6

Gary R. McGee, 35 yrs., Lowell District; **David M. McNeice**, 33 yrs., Pittsfield District; **Thomas J. Mitchell**, 31 yrs., Norfolk Juvenile; **Eugene A. Monteiro**, 35 yrs., Bristol Superior; **Thomas A. Morris**, 33 yrs., Plymouth District; **Clifford J. Nilan**, 33 yrs., Berkshire Superior; **Robert F. O'Malley**, 35 yrs., Marlborough District; **William M. O'Riordan**, 31 yrs., Hampshire Probate & Family; **Jean Ellen Ouellette-Kenney**, 33 yrs., Brockton District; **David A. Parke**, 32 yrs., Barnstable District; **Daniel Passacantilli**, 34 yrs., Essex Juvenile; **Alessandro Pizzi**, 33 yrs., Wrentham District; **Michael Placzek**, 31 yrs., Chicopee District; **James J. Rush**, 42 yrs., West Roxbury; **Gilbert Sakakeeny**, 32 yrs., Middlesex Juvenile; **Stephen P. Santora**, 31 yrs., Westborough District; **Leonel O. Souza, Jr.**, 31 yrs., Barnstable Probate & Family; **Sandy Stillwell**, 34 yrs., Suffolk Superior; **John S. Tobin**, 40 yrs., Boston Municipal Court; **Robert D. Trostel**, 32 yrs., Stoughton District; **William P. Wallace**, 33 yrs., Boston Municipal Court, Roxbury Division; **Michael A. Walsh**, 38 yrs., Quincy District Court; **Barry M. Williams**, 33 yrs., New Bedford District; and **Charles A. Winchester**, 39 yrs., Woburn District.

Probation Journal Deadlines

	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Publication</u>
Summer	May 7	June
Autumn	October 6	November

Please submit materials—stories, letters, and photography, etc.—for publication by mail, fax, or email by the deadlines listed above. The Probation Journal reserves all editing rights.

The Probation Journal

The Probation Journal is a quarterly publication of the Massachusetts Probation Service written and edited by Coria Holland in the Communications Office of the Office of the Commissioner of Probation. The Probation Journal welcomes announcements, story ideas, articles, letters and questions. Please forward any of the above to:

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